

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016**

1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.

Working Group Members Present: Linda Bartram
Susan Gallagher
Chris Marks
Chris Dobbie
Robin Bayley (via teleconference)
Steve Bertrand (arrived at 4:15 pm)

Working Group Members Regrets: Paul Jones

Councillor Present: Councillor Alto

Councillor Regrets: Councillor Loveday

Staff: Jacqueline Weston, Assistant Director, Transportation

Staff Regrets: Brad Dellebuur, Manager, Transportation
Chaz Whipp, Manager, Facilities
Christine Brinton, Recording Secretary

Guests: Keith and Nicole, Sign Language Interpreters

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – November 7, 2016

The Accessibility Working Group (AWG) reviewed the agenda and added the following:

- The New Connect Victoria App (not accessible to screen readers);
- Rick Hansen Accessibility Pilot Project at the Disability Resource Centre;
- Share Your Feedback on 25-Year Plan for Victoria's Parks; and
- Update on the City's Budgeting Process.

Motion: It was moved by Chris Marks, seconded by Susan Gallagher that the agenda of Monday, November 7, 2016 Accessibility Working Group meeting be approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 3, 2016

Motion: It was moved by Chris Dobbie seconded by Chris Marks, that the minutes from the Accessibility Working Group meeting held October 3, 2016 be approved as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

- a) Adept Access Request for Link on City Website – Adept Access Incorporated group attended the October 2016 AWG meeting looking to have support from the AWG to be included on the City of Victoria’s webpage with a link to their website. The AWG members requested Adept Access contact AWG Members individually for further feedback but none of the AWG members present had heard from them. The AWG agreed that promotion of a business would not be appropriate.

Steve Bertrand arrived at 4:15 pm

- b) Finalize AWG Report to Council – The AWG agreed this report is ready to go to Council. Chris Marks will format one final time and send to Linda.

ACTION: Councillor Alto will ask Chris Coates, Legislative Clerk, about process for sending report to Council and advise the AWG on giving a 10 minute presentation.

- c) Accessibility Check List – The AWG agreed there are still a few gaps in the checklist (for example width of doorways, wheelchair accessibility).

ACTION: Steve Bertrand will review checklist and provide missing information.

ACTION: Linda Bartram will then send out the next draft of checklist

- d) Access for Persons in Wheelchairs to Heritage Buildings / DVBA partnership update - Councillor Alto advised that this has been left with DVBA to be considered in their budget for 2017, Councillor Margaret Lucas will follow-up with DVBA on behalf of the AWG.

- e) Capital City Bus Station Washroom – Steve Bertrand and Chaz Whipp met on site, power door button needs to be on pole so it’s not being hit by door. City buildings should have accessible washrooms regardless of who is tenant. This is another example of decisions being made without proper consideration for accessibility.

ACTION: Chaz to be providing a report.

- f) Crystal Pool Activities for Children with Allergies – Chaz to connect with Robin and provide name of the Crystal Pool representative so that they can have a direct conversation.

ACTION: Robin Bayley to report back to the AWG once she has been in contact with Crystal Pool representative.

- g) Toronto and Accessibility – Robin Bayley’s focus is working on gathering information for the AWG.
- h) Accessibility of Royal Athletic Park, including washrooms and food – Chaz to follow up and report back at next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Grant Opportunity – Rick Hansen – Access4all - <http://www.rickhansen.com/access4all>
Funded in part by the Government of Canada, the Rick Hansen Foundation will provide grants of up to \$30,000 to eligible Barrier Buster projects and associated awareness building events across the country.

ACTION: Jacqueline to work with staff in Transportation and Facilities to develop list of potential projects that meet the eligibility requirements and bring to next meeting for review and prioritization by Committee.

- a) Accessibility of City Website - The AWG discussed the City of Victoria website and generally the websites not too bad. There is a person in town who assesses websites for accessibility and there is probably room for improvement. The Crystal Pool timetables formatting is not accessible to screen reader users. Steve talked to Ryan Shotton and Ryan said there are new tools available for website accessibility. The City website is due for an overhaul next year. Robin has had some correspondence with Citizen Engagement where they confirm the planning and revamping of the City webpage to be more accessible. The Committee asked for website updates to be sent to AWG to test before the new website is launched.

ACTION: Jacqueline to talk to Ryan Shotton/Monica Dhawan about CESP plan for updating City website and using latest technology to include accessibility.

- b) New Connect Victoria App – Committee members advised that the new CityApp is not accessible for screen readers.

ACTION: Jacqueline will advise Citizen Engagement that this is an issue and ask for follow up.

- c) Fort Street Protected Bike Lane Consultation – Update from Linda Bartram – Linda attended the open house on November 1, 2016 and updated the AWG on the following: Fort Street corridor from Wharf Street to Cook Street on the north side of Fort Street, bike lanes will not affect bus stops, but will effect some parking spaces. Linda asked that any loss of accessible parking spots on the north side need to be relocated on the south side in close proximity to where it was. Quadra and Fort Street do not currently have audible signals, all signals need to be audible signals. 3 mid-block crossings need to be audible pedestrian push buttons. Is there some way of a visually impaired person knowing where the mid-block crosswalk is located (tactile change in surface of pavement) and any furniture should funnel person to location of crosswalk.

ACTION: Jacqueline to remind transportation staff to consider accessibility in design and provide the AWG an opportunity to participate in consultation.

Audible Signals – The AWG previously passed a motion that the new standard for accessible signals would be installed on a go forward basis.

ACTION: Jacqueline to advise why new signal at Hillside and Doncaster is not the new standard. Jacqueline to ensure new standard used in all future designs.

- d) No-Lip Curbs and Truncated Dome - AWG has recommended new standard with no-lip curbs and truncated domes. Jacqueline advised that staff have looked at City records and found that it would be difficult to inventory all the no-lip locations.

ACTION: Jacqueline to advise why new intersection at Hillside/Blanshard has no-lip curb.

ACTION: Susan to send Jacqueline example locations of no-lip curb (such as Hillside Mall, Government Street, etc.)

ACTION: *Jacqueline to bring a plan to the next meeting for a pilot installation of truncated domes; AWG has funding that could be used for the pilot; the results of the pilot can then be used to plan a longer term program.*

- e) Parks Master Plan – Linda advised the AWG that she is pleased to see references to accessibility, (see email forwarded earlier). Would like to see representation from this committee at upcoming consultations and for all AWG members to take the online survey by December 6th.

ACTION: Steve Bertrand will attend on November 19, 10-1, event, pop up park in Centennial Square, and the Nov 19 afternoon formal consultation at MacPherson Playhouse.

- f) BC Team Builders – Rick Hansen Accessibility Pilot Project – Linda updated the AWG on this pilot project, this project group is looking at the accessibility of buildings and incorporating a rating system. There is a coordinator and 4 people working on this project in Victoria, very good representation.

ACTION: Christine to add this group to the agenda for a presentation at the January meeting.

- g) Update on City's budgeting process - Councillor Alto provided an update on where the City is in the budget process.

- h) Height of Curb/Sidewalk at BC Transit Stops – Steve Bertrand discussed the following:
- Curb too low such that it is a really steep incline to get on and off bus
 - Could there be an incline to the bus stop with a designated accessible pick up zone?
 - Could this be done as a pilot project?

Examples are:

- Douglas Street West Side at Fisgard
- Douglas Street West Side at Pandora (in front of City Hall)
- Douglas Street West Side in front of Bay Centre

ACTION: Jacqueline to advise on a plan for addressing this issue.

6. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday, December 5, 2016 (Chris Marks sends regrets)

Monday, January 9, 2017

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm